



To the Honorable Council
City of Norfolk, Virginia

October 23, 2012



From: Ronald H. Williams, Jr., Assistant City
Manager

Subject: A Resolution requesting
Hampton Roads Transit to initiate
studies to extend Light Rail Transit to
Naval Station Norfolk and Virginia
Beach

Reviewed: Anne Odell, Assistant City Manager

Ward/Superward: Citywide

Approved:



Marcus D. Jones, City Manager

Item Number:

R-21

I. **Recommendation:** Adopt Resolution

II. **Applicant:** City of Norfolk

III. **Description**

This agenda item is a resolution requesting that Hampton Roads Transit initiate studies of potential options for extending The Tide – Light Rail Transit to Naval Station Norfolk and to continue to advance current analysis of an extension into the City of Virginia Beach.

IV. **Analysis**

The TIDE light rail system began passenger service operations in Norfolk in August 2011. Daily ridership totals during the first year of operations have far exceeded initial projections and continue to increase demonstrating a growing public enthusiasm and support for light rail transit as part of a balanced approach to addressing transportation needs in Norfolk and the larger Hampton Roads region. The initial TIDE alignment in Norfolk between Newtown Road and the Fort Norfolk District was envisioned and proposed as a starter alignment that would expand over time to serve other major destinations in the region.

The severe congestion and delays at and along approaches to Naval Station Norfolk, the largest employment center in the Hampton Roads region, impacts essential national defense readiness and operations as well as all users of the surrounding highway network. Extending light rail to Naval Station Norfolk could help address existing and future transportation challenges in the area while also potentially serving many other important educational, commercial and transportation centers in Norfolk.

The City of Virginia Beach has already initiated formal study of transportation options, including a potential extension of light rail to the east. The continued advancement and completion of the current Virginia Beach Transit Extension Study is endorsed as a major regional transportation priority.

V. Financial Impact

The financial impact is not known until a final study scope is accepted and developed by Hampton Roads Transit. Future operational and capital costs would be determined by the study.

VI. Environmental

The study has no known environmental impacts.

VII. Community Outreach/Notification

Public notification for this agenda item was conducted through the City of Norfolk's agenda notification process.

VIII. Board/Commission Action

N/A

IX. Coordination/Outreach

This letter has been coordinated with the City Attorney and the Department of Planning & Community Development.

Form and Correctness Approved: *WR*By *[Signature]*
Office of the City Attorney

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Contents Approved:

By *[Signature]*
DEPT. Executive

Resolution

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING HAMPTON ROADS TRANSIT TO INITIATE AND ADVANCE STUDIES OF POTENTIAL OPTIONS TO EXTEND LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT IN NORFOLK TO CONNECT TO NAVAL STATION NORFOLK AND ENDORSING THE CONTINUED ADVANCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF THE CURRENT STUDY OF LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT IN VIRGINIA BEACH.

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WHEREAS, the TIDE light rail system began passenger service operations in Norfolk in August, 2011; and

WHEREAS, daily ridership totals on the TIDE during its first year of operations have far exceeded initial projections and continue to increase demonstrating a growing public enthusiasm and support for light rail transit as part of a balanced approach to addressing transportation needs in Norfolk and the larger Hampton Roads region; and

WHEREAS, the initial TIDE alignment in Norfolk between Newtown Road and the Eastern Virginia Medical Center was envisioned and proposed as a starter alignment that would expand over time to serve other major destinations in the region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Virginia Beach has already initiated a formal study of transportation options, including a potential extension of light rail to the east, to help develop and evaluate possible cost-effective and efficient travel options that would connect major residential and employment areas as well as recreational venues; and

WHEREAS, the severe congestion and delays at and along the approaches to Naval Station Norfolk, the largest employment center in the Hampton Roads region, impact essential national defense readiness and operations as well as all users of the surrounding highway network; and

WHEREAS, extending light rail to Naval Station Norfolk could help address existing and future transportation challenges

in the area while also potentially serving many other important educational, commercial and transportation centers in Norfolk; and

WHEREAS, the *General Plan of Norfolk* supports efforts to connect light rail to Naval Station Norfolk; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Norfolk:

Section 1:- That Hampton Roads Transit is hereby requested to initiate and advance formal studies under the federal process to develop and evaluate options for the possible extension of light rail transit to connect to Naval Station Norfolk on the fastest possible time schedule.

Section 2:- That the continued advancement and completion of the current Virginia Beach Transit Extension Study is endorsed as a major regional transportation priority.

Section 3:- That this resolution shall be in effect from and after its adoption.